



**Winston H. Hickox**  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

## Executive Office

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**Gray Davis**  
Governor

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption.  
For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>.*

June 2, 2003

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Dear Hearing Participants:

**CLOSING BRIEFS FOR HEARING ON PETITIONS FOR LONG TERM TRANSFER INVOLVING A CHANGE IN THE PLACE AND PURPOSE OF USE OF LICENSES 2685, 6047 AND 11395 (APPLICATIONS 1224, 10572 AND 16186) OF MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT AND LICENSES 5417 AND 11058 (APPLICATIONS 1233 AND 14127) OF MODESTO AND TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICTS**

This letter is about the filing and content of closing briefs after the above-referenced hearing held on April 23, 2003 by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The purpose of the hearing was to assist the SWRCB in determining whether and under what conditions to approve Petitions for Long-Term Transfer filed by members of the San Joaquin River Group Authority (SJRGA). As I stated at the end of the hearing, closing briefs must be received by the SWRCB by 12:00 PM on Friday, June 27, 2003. Rebuttal briefs must be received by the SWRCB by 12:00 PM on Friday, July 18, 2003, and should be no longer than 10 pages. All briefs shall be directed to the attention of Ms. Diane Lawson, Division of Water Rights.

The briefs should cover the key issues listed in the hearing notice. In addition, the briefs should address the following questions:

1. During April and May of "double-step" years, what impacts, if any, may occur to legal users of water due to releases conducted pursuant to the petitions?
2. What if any impacts may occur to legal users of water during other months of the year due to releases made during April and May pursuant to the petitions?
3. What if any water quality impacts may result from releases being made pursuant to the petitions during double-step years?

4. What if any conditions should be placed on the proposed transfer to avoid impacts to other legal users of water?
5. Under what terms and conditions should the SWRCB approve this transfer? In particular, should refill conditions similar to the conditions on the approval in Decision 1641 of the SJRGA transfers be placed on this transfer? If so, should any modifications be made to these conditions?
6. What impacts, if any, will the approval of the proposed transfer have on the operation of the State Water Project and/or Central Valley Project? Will the proposed transfer affect export pumping by the Projects and if so, how? What impacts to other water users or to the environment, if any, will result from any changes that may occur in export pumping?

Diane Lawson (Environmental Scientist), Ernie Mona (Staff Engineer) and Barbara Leidigh (Staff Counsel IV) are the staff members currently assigned to this matter. If you have any questions concerning this letter, you may contact Ms. Lawson at (916) 341-5297, Mr. Mona at (916) 341-5359 or Ms. Leidigh at (916) 341-5190.

Sincerely,

*ORIGINAL SIGNED BY*

Arthur G. Baggett, Jr.  
Chair

bcc: Barbara Leidigh  
Ernie Mona  
Lewis Moeller  
Gita Kapahi

DKL:llv 05/15/03

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